

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Strengthening the Government Hospital Services – Effective Utilisation of Specialist Services – Repositioning of Specialist Civil Assistant Surgeons (SCAS) working in Primary Health Centres to Community Health Centres (CHCs), Area and District Hospitals-Orders – Issued.

MEDICAL, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (C1) DEPARTMENT

G.O. Ms. No. 294

Dated: 20-10.2010
Read the following:

1. G.O.Ms. No. 145 of H.M & F.W (F1) Dept Dated: 16.07.2009
2. Commissioner of APVVP Letter No. 2741/M2A/2010 dated 21.5.2010
3. Letter of Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, No. 2259/2010-HMF dated 27.5.2010
4. G.O.Ms No.196 of Finance (W&M) Department dated 22.7.2010
5. G.O.Ms No. 209 of H.M &FW Department dated 18.8.2010
6. G.O.Ms No 285 of HM&FW (C1) Department dated 18.10.2010

ORDER:

The Government have been implementing a number of measures to strengthen the hospital care system in the state. It has initiated a comprehensive action plan for revitalising the public health system to reduce the infant and maternal mortality and morbidity and the disease burden. In this direction, the government has rationalised the health institutions and their service area and is in the process of establishing three hundred and sixty (360) 'Community Health and Nutrition Clusters' (CHNCs).

2. However, currently of the 223 hospitals under the control of AP Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, only about one fourth are functioning at optimal capacity, essentially for want of specialist doctors. Some Community Health Centres (CHCs), Area and District Hospitals with one or more Obstetrician are not able to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care (CEmONC) services for want of other members of the MCH Management Team, like a Paediatrician and an Anaesthesiologist.

3. At the same time, several specialist doctors and even super-specialists are found working in the Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The PHCs are health centres and therefore are expected to provide preventive and promotive health care, apart from treating basic health problems and referring complex health problems to the appropriate referral hospital. Therefore, the presence of a specialist in a PHC entails double jeopardy; first, the specialist is unable to apply his / her knowledge and skills in a PHC context, and second, the referral hospital is starved of the much needed specialist services.

4. In this context, the Union Minister of Health has observed in the reference third cited that despite substantial investment in specialist training, 'implementation of Reproductive and Child Health and other similar programmes continue to be unsatisfactory on account of these trained personnel being posted in places where they are not able to use the skills acquired by them'. Therefore, he had requested the Government to review the deployment of specialist doctors and reposition them in facilities where their skills are better utilised.

5. In this background, the government have conducted a critical analysis of the qualifications of Civil Assistant Surgeons (CAS) currently working in the Primary Health Centres (PHCs), CHCs and other Hospitals. The analysis revealed that while several hospitals - CHCs, Area and District Hospitals - are without specialists, more than four hundred and fifty one (451) specialists are working in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the state. Majority of these medical officers are Obstetricians, Paediatricians and Anaesthetists, even Surgeons, Physicians and such other specialists whose services are absolutely essential in first and secondary referral hospitals (CHCs, Area and District Hospitals). Significantly, many of them have been trained at the expense of the government by virtue of in-service quota in the post-graduate medical studies, earmarked for serving doctors.

6. In this context, the Government in the reference sixth cited have earmarked every post of Specialist Civil Assistant Surgeon, Specialist Deputy Civil Surgeon and Civil Surgeon Specialist for a notified speciality in all CHCs, Area and District Hospitals in the state. Further, it has redesignated the posts of Civil Assistant Surgeon, Deputy Civil Surgeon and Civil Surgeon with post-graduate degree or diploma as Specialist Civil Assistant Surgeon (SCAS), Specialist Deputy Civil Surgeon (SDCS) and Civil Surgeon Specialist (CSS) respectively. Further, every post in all government hospitals in the state have been assigned a unique code number indicating the speciality to which the post is earmarked. The Government have ordered that every post of SCAS, SDAS and CSS earmarked for a particular speciality shall be filled only by the specialist of that discipline and under no circumstance shall there be any instance of a specialist of one discipline being posted to a post earmarked for another discipline.

7. Further, the Government have taken a number of measures for revitalising the public health system, which includes *inter alia*, strengthening the PHC system to provide primary community-centred health care services, which requires basic medical doctors and public health specialists (and not clinical experts); strengthen the first (CHCs) and secondary (Area and District Hospitals) referral hospitals that require specialist services; and strengthen the referral system between the PHC and the referral hospitals through the establishment of community health and nutrition clusters (CHNCs).

8. In these circumstances, the Government having carefully reviewed the entire matter in the best interests of providing quality health care to the citizens and also to provide smooth and streamlined career growth to the Medical Officers in the Government Service, hereby order the following:

- a) All Civil Assistant Surgeons (CAS) with post-graduate degree / diploma in clinical disciplines – other than Public Health, Preventive and Social Medicine, Community Medicine, Epidemiology, Public Health Management, Tuberculosis, Leprosy - currently working under the control of Directorate of Public Health are hereby brought under the aegis and control of AP Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (first and secondary referral hospital service cadre) with immediate effect.
- b) All Civil Assistant Surgeons with MBBS degree and those having a post-graduate degree or diploma in Public Health, Public Health Management, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Preventive and Social Medicine, Community Medicine, Epidemiology, currently working under the control of APVVP are hereby brought under the control of Directorate of Public Health with immediate effect. This would entail that the services of all CAS with MBBS degree and post-graduate degree or diploma in public health and allied disciplines will be managed by the Directorate of Health, while all specialist CAS (SCAS) services will be managed by the AP Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, without however affecting their seniority, service conditions and such other entitlements.
- c) The Primary Health Centres (PHCs) shall be staffed by MBBS graduates and those with post-graduate qualification in public health or allied disciplines like TB, Leprosy, Epidemiology, Public Health, etc., and doctors with post-graduate degree or diploma in clinical and non-clinical branches – other than public health related specialities - be posted in CHCs, Area and District hospitals.
- d) All posts shall be filled by specialists in accordance with the notification issued in the reference sixth cited. A post earmarked for a particular speciality shall not be filled with a medical officer of any other speciality. This would entail that a SCAS post earmarked for an Anaesthetist will always be filled only by an Anaesthetist and not by any other speciality. Any mis-posting shall be considered as a serious misconduct and the concerned head of the department will be liable for disciplinary action.
- e) All SCAS posts in all CHCs - currently under the control of Directorate of Public Health as well as AP Vaidya Vidhana Parishad - shall be filled by APVVP, while all posts of Duty Medical Officers and those earmarked for non-specialists (MBBS graduates) in APVVP hospital, as notified in the reference sixth cited, shall be filled by the Director of Public Health and Family Welfare.
- f) All Specialist Civil Assistant Surgeons (SCAS) with post-graduate degree or diploma in clinical disciplines (including those who have recently completed or likely to complete post-graduate education) and currently working in PHCs shall be transferred and posted in the Community Health Centres / Area or District Hospitals.

- g) All Deputy Civil Surgeons with MBBS Degree and / or Public Health specialisation working with APVVP shall be posted as Senior Public Health Officers (SPHO) in the newly created Community Health and Nutrition Clusters (CHNCs).
9. The Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, Director of Public Health and Family Welfare and the Commissioner of AP Vaidya Vidhana Parishad shall take action accordingly.
10. This order is issued with the concurrence of Finance (W &M) Department vide U.O Note No. 2114-B/1004/A.2/W&M/2001 dated 04.09.2010.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

DR P V RAMESH
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare
The Director of Public Health and Family Welfare
The Commissioner of AP Vaidya Vidhana Parishad

Copy:

The Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
The Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi with reference to the Letter of Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, No. 2259/2010-HMF dated 27.5.2010
The District Collector and District Magistrate of all districts
The District Medical and Health Officer of all districts
The District Coordinator of Health Services of APVVP of all districts
The Superintendent of all CHCs / Area and District Hospitals
PS to Principal Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department
PS to Special Chief Secretary of Medical and Health Department
PS to Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister (DK)
The OSD to Minister of Health and Family Welfare
The OSD to Minister of Medical Education
The OSD to Minister of Arogya Sri.
To the Concerned Sections and Stock File of Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department
The SPIU of MH&FW Department

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER